Summer is a good time to **check the chimney for creosote accumulations. Creosote in the chimney is a fire hazard.** It is a brown or black gummy substance that collects in flues and chimneys. Cleaning now can reduce the chance of fire this fall.

* * *

There are four species of cockroaches that are unwelcomed guests in the home: Oriental Cockroach, American Cockroach, German Cockroach and the brown-banded cockroach.

The American and Oriental cockroaches are usually found in damp basements and store rooms. The German and brown-banded are common in kitchens, bathrooms and living areas.

The control of any of these begins with a thorough clean-up of all food materials. Aerosol sprays can give effective control if used along with a clean-up program. Dursban, diazinon and malathion are recommended insecticides.

* * *

Most everyone likes a basement, but no one likes a wet basement. Yet, wet basements are a common complaint. Dampness is caused by condensation , leakage through cracks and openings and gradual seepage of soil moisture. Condensation can usually be cured by warming the wall surfaces with insulation, dehumidifying or by ventilation. Leakage is another problem - waterproofing of the walls is

Tips For Saving Energy

Insulate the hot water heater. By wrapping a piece of thick, aluminum-backed fiberglass insulation around your tank, you can reduce the amount of heat lost through its sides and save an additional $20 a year. The insulating materials should not cost more than $10 if you do the work yourself. With gas heaters, be careful not to cover the vent hole; if you don't know where they are, ask a service person.

Drain the heater tank. Studies have shown that sediment collecting at the bottom of a water heater reduces the system's efficiency, ultimately producing higher energy bills. Every few months, you can alleviate the problem by opening the plug at the bottom of the tank and letting the water flow out until it runs clear.

Insulate the pipes. In many homes, there can be 60 feet or more of three-quarter-inch piping between the hot water tank and a faucet. That length of pipe contains up to two gallons of water. When you turn on the faucet, you must run off those two gallons, plus an additional gallon of water, to warm up the pipes, before any really hot water comes out. If a hot water faucet is used ten times a day, this means that you may be wasting 900 gallons of hot water a month. The cost of insulating 60 feet of pipe would pay for itself in six months.

Hurry your showers. Contrary to popular belief, showers save more energy than baths only if they are relatively short. During a long, steamy shower with the faucet giving off eight gallons a minute, it doesn't take long before you have drained off more hot water than you would have used in a 30-gallon bathtub. You can determine how much water your showerhead gives off each minute by timing how long it takes to fill a one or two gallon bucket.

Use less water. If your family doesn't want to take shorter showers, you can conserve hot water by attaching a flow restrictor. These devices reduce the amount of water that comes out of the head without sacrificing a hard spray. In one test, a $16.95 device released an average flow of 2.1 gallons a minute, compared with a normal release of 8 to 10 gallons a minute. According to the DOE, such restrictors can save a family $24 a year in hot water costs.

Tune your furnace annually. Tests have shown that a one fifteenth inch layer of soot in a furnace can reduce efficiency by up to 50 percent. Just as an improperly tuned carburetor can waste gas in a car, an improper mixture of air and fuel can cause a furnace to use more oil or gas.

Insulate your basement. It's standard procedure to begin insulating a house with the attic, but it may be worth your time to consider insulating your basement, as well. If you have no basement, insulate the crawl space below your floors. Princeton University researchers found that 25 percent of the furnace heat in the houses they monitored stayed in the basement. If that area is not well insulated, you could be losing several hundred dollars worth of heat annually.

Close up those air leaks. Many people assume that most air leaks in a house occur around window and door frames. However, one Colorado researcher has found that the four major sources of air infiltration are the kitchen fan exhaust, the bathroom fan exhaust, the hole around the clothers dryer vent and the furnace flue. He also found that air flow could be reduced considerably by filling in the holes around each of these leaks. Not only is it a simple task, but it also enables a homeowner to learn where air is entering the house.

Look for heater helpers. You would be surprised how much lost heat can be recycled around a house. For instance, if you have an electric clothes drying the clothes. Similarly, you might as well take advantage of any extra heat in your shower or bath by letting it cool off in the tub before draining.

Consider a dishwasher. If you have a large family, a dishwasher is not the wasteful appliance many people believe it to be. To complete its cycle, it requires about 16 gallons of hot water, can you can usually do an entire day's dishes in one load. Conversely, if you wash your own dishes in a normal-sized sink, you probably use about 3½ gallons of water in the wash side and the same amount in the rinse side. If you eat three meals a day and use two sinkfuls of wash and rinse water after each meal, this means you may be using an average of 42 gallons daily just to wash dishes. At average electric rates today, this means a cost of about 35 cents per day to wash dishes manually - about twice as much as with one load of a dishwasher. Savings: $70 a year.

Eliminate the dry cycle. Many dishwasher brands include a heating element that speeds up the drying process. If you wash your dishes in the evening, electric drying is unnecessary. Your machine may have a switch that shuts off the drying cycle. If not, turn off your power after the rinse is completed and open the door to let air circulate around the dishes.

Wash clothes at a cooler setting. According to the DOE, eliminating the "warm rinse" cycle on washing machines saves 23 percent of the energy required to run the machine. The Texas Power and Light Company adds that "if clothes are washed in 140-degree hot water with two 110-degree warm water rinses, approximately 40 gallons of hot water is needed per load. That would require 160 percent more energy than if a cold-water rinse is used."

Have your thermostat checked. The Princeton energy researchers found that half of the thermostats in the community they studied were inaccurate by one or more degrees. According to their report, a one-degree error can add four percent to a fuel bill.

Switch off the air conditioner sump heater. Most central air conditioners contain a sump or crankcase heater that evaporates the moisture that might get into the compressor. This heater stays in operation all year long, even when the air conditioner is not in use. Most of these heaters draw between 50 and 75 watts of power, which means an added electrical charge of about $20 for all of the months when the machine sits idle. To turn off the heater during the winter, merely switch off the air conditioner circuit breaker. Be certain, however, to switch the breaker back on at least 24 hours before you activate the air conditioner. Otherwise, the air conditioner will be damaged.

Keep your refrigerator clean. Dusting off heat appliances won't make them work better, but with refrigerators, such a procedure can be important. The coils in the back should be cleaned every other month. Dirty coils greatly reduce the machine's cooling ability. You should also periodically check how airtight the appliance is by putting a dollar bill between the gasket and the door. If the bill can be pulled out easily when the door is closed, replace the gasket.

Unplug that old refrigerator. If it is used only occasionally, or to store marginal items, that old refrigerator relegated to the basement or garage may be costing you a bundle - up to $100 per year if its gasket is worn or the compressor is bad. If you have such an appliance, try unplugging it for a month and see if you notice any difference on your next bill.

Get rid of that large freezer. The high price of electricity these days is rapidly changing the cost-benefit calculations for large freezers. A group of energy consultants in Davis, California, found that freezers are so expensive to run that "the question should be raised as to whether the benefits of bulk food buying offset the costs of storage." A middle-sized freezer may cost up to $8 a month to operate, and the older it gets, the less efficient it becomes.

Douse those pilot lights. Federal studies have shown that the pilot lights on gas stoves may consume up to 30 percent of the fuel used by the stoves. Thus, if you don't cook often, you might be paying more for your pilot light fuel than you are for cooking. The pilots were originally put on stoves for convenience and safety, but if you're willing to relight a burner with a match each time you want to use it - and are very careful not to leave the gas on without a light - you can save substantial money. Some stoves have adjustments that will cut off the pilots, but you shouldn't attempt to turn them off until you talk with your gas appliance dealer. If you use an oven sparingly, you can also turn off that pilot. Or you can convert your gas stove to automatic electronic ignition. Conversion kits average about $40, but the payback should occur in less than three years.

Don't preheat the oven. In a project for the American Home Economics Association last year, researchers measured how much fuel it took to cook a hamburger in various ways. They found stovetop cooking to be the most economical. They also concluded that preheating an oven is more costly than cooking from a cold start. Therefore, avoid preheating whenever possible.

Eliminate the television "instant-on". Many tube-type television sets include a feature that enables the picture to appear instantaneously, the moment the set is switched on. While this avoids the 30 second warming up time, it also wastes electricity since the device remains on 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This means an added cost of up to $25 a year in electricity for a family that uses its television six hours or less each day. If your set does not have a button to turn off the "instant-on", have a repairman do it.

Convert to fluorescent. For light fixtures that are in constant use, it makes good economic sense to convert to fluorescent bulbs. A double bulb incandescent fixture that uses two 100-watters for ten hours a day, for example, costs about $36 in yearly electric bills. A fluorescent unit can provide a similar amount of light for $7.20. The $20 or so it costs to convert to fluorescent will be paid back in one year. Since constant switching on and off shortens the life of fluorescent bulbs, however, they should only be used in places where they will be left on for longer periods.

Cut your light wattage. Each time a bulb burns out, consider replacing it with one that has less wattage. You may be surprised how many bulbs in your house are too powerful. Every time you cut the wattage in half, you cut 50 percent of the utility bill for that particular fixture.

Use small appliances. The best way to decide whether or not to use one of those small cooking appliances you've stashed away in a cupboard is to compare its wattage label with that of your stove. It is no unusual, for instance, for

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ASCS TODAY

By Tom Conrad

Virginians Appointed To National Task Forces - The Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service has announced the formation of several national task forces to review ASCS programs in preparation for the 1979 program year. James E. Warren, South Hill, member of the Virginia State ASC Committee has been assigned to the Tobacco Task Force; Homer K. Tinkham, Richmond, Compliance Specialist, assigned to the Compliance Task Force; and Carol Roakes, Rustburg, Program Assistant in Campbell County, assigned to the Task Force on Rural Clean Water and the Agriculture Conservation Program. These task forces have been established to streamline the grass root input from the producers to the policy makers in Washington. It has been evident for some time that farmers could be better served if the present county and community system was more thoroughly involved and better supported by committee members and employees. The current formal and informal ASCS communication system has not provided committee members and employees an adequate opportunity to make an input or to influence the various program decisions.

To assist the task force members in obtaining the grass root ideas and opinions, commodity resource groups are also being established at the State level. In Virginia a Tobacco Resource Group of ten committee members and county office employees, chaired by James E. Warren, will meet on August 8.

Agricultural Conservation Program - Two weeks ago the Appomattox County Committee met and approved applications for cost-share assistance under the 1978 Agricultural Conservation Program. Last week the approved applications were processed and sent out to the applicants.

Before approved projects are started be sure to read your approval so that you understand what is required. If you have any questions contact the ASCS office and we will be glad to help you.

After you have completed your practice please report your completion to the ASCS office and please bring your sales tickets. If you are not able to complete the practice by the expiration date on your approval, you may apply for an extension. Payments under the program will be made after October 1.

SMSA Changes May Effect County

The possible elimination of Amherst and Appomattox counties from the Lynchburg Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) as proposed by the U. S. Department of Commerce could severely affect product distribution in the area, businessmen believe.

The Lynchburg SMSA now includes the City of Lynchburg and Amherst, Appomattox and Campbell Counties. The Commerce Department has proposed new criteria for designating SMSAs, indicating that rural counties be excluded.

The SMSA is used in the overall nationwide scheme of marketing to determine allocation of advertising money. Shrinking the SMSA by one or two counties could, therefore, affect the national marketing distribution pattern.

"The potential shrinking of the number of products and advertising dollars coming into the area could produce a well-felt impact on the business community," according to Roger Divens, president and general manager of WSET-TV.

Divins noted that the affects could be felt on the automotive industry, the agricultural community and large chain department and grocery store as well as on the newspaper and television industry.

The Central Virginia Planning District Commission has opposed the change in SMSA designation mainly because areas that would be affected have not been given enough time to review or comment on proposals.

The proposed changes were published in May in the Commerce Department's **Statistical Reporter**. Persons in the Central Virginia region only learned of the proposed criteria through the **Federal Register** during the last week in June.

During a public hearing held in Washington July 20 by the Department of Commerce, the comment period on the proposed new requirements was extended to August 15 from the original deadline of July 24.

The CVPDC expressed concern that the impact of the proposed change has not been fully determined and that attention has not been given to the unique needs of Virginia counties and cities.

Exclusion of one or both of the jurisdictions would disrupt the continuity of data collected at the regional, local and state levels, as less data is collected by the U. S. Census Bureau outside SMSAs. The removal of counties from the SMSA could also jeopardize areas' abilities to qualify for federal and state grant programs. For example, with Community Development Block Grants, 80 percent of funds are provided to metropolitan areas and 20 percent to non-metropolitan areas.

Persons interested in further information may contact Ted McCormack, principal regional planner for the CVPDC, at 804-845-3491.

VA Questions And Answers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full informaiton is available at any VA office.

Q - Am I entitled to hospitalization at a Veterans Administration facility as the widow of a deceased veteran?

A - No. Only veterans may be entitled to hospitalization at a VA facility.

Q - Can the spouse of a veteran qualify for civil service preference based on the veteran's military service?

A - The spouse of a 10-point veteran, who because of a service - connected disability has been unable to qualify for any appointment in the federal civil service, is entitled to a 10-point preference. At such time that the veteran should be able to use this preference, it would be rescinded from the spouse.

Q - I was honorably discharged with a 100 per cent service - connected disability. Am I eligible for commissary and exchange privileges?

A - yes. Honorably discharged veterans with service - connected disabilities rated at 100 per cent, their eligible dependents and unmarried surviving spouses are eligible. For specific information, contact the nearest VA regional office.

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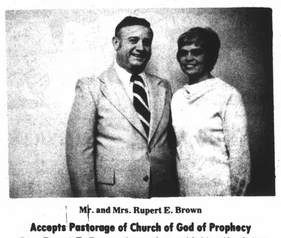

Mr. and Mrs. Rupert E. Brown

Accepts Pastorage of Church of God of Prophecy

Rev. Rupert E. Brown, shown above with his wife, JoAnn, assumed the duties of pastor at the Church of God of Prophecy, located on Highway 1010 in Appomattox, effective Sunday, August 6, 1978.

He replaces Rev. Edward Atkins, former pastor at this church.

Rev. and Mrs. Brown came from Eden, North Carolina where he evangelized over the state of North Carolina.

They are the parents of two children, a son, Raymond Brown, Chaplain in the Air Force in Sumpter, South Carolina; and a daughter, Mrs. Ruby Doris Daniels, who lives in Illinois where her husband is stationed in the Air Force.

Rev. Brown extends a cordial welcome to the public to attend services at this church.

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